

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 14, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-32 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-3, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 22 were rejected. Claims 4-7, 9, 12 and 17-21 were objected to. Claim 1 has been amended to recite allowed subject matter formerly included in Claim 4, and Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 23-32 have been cancelled to comply with an election/restriction requirement. New Claims 33-47 have been added to claim subject matter indicated as allowable. All amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Election/Restriction Requirement

During a telephone conversation between the Examiner and Raman Dewan on October 1, 2004, the Examiner required an election restriction between Claims 1-22, Claims 23-25 and Claims 26-32. Applicants made a provisional election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Claims 1-22. Applicants hereby confirm that election, and hereby cancel Claims 23-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter formerly included in Claim 4, and Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as Claim 33. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as Claim 38. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as Claim 43.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,675,907 issued to Mark K. Moser et al. ("Moser."). Claims 2, 15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moser.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite subject matter indicated as allowable and formerly included in Claim 4. Consequently, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Inasmuch as Claims 2-3 and 5-22 have either been indicated as containing allowable subject matter or depend from allowable independent Claim 1, Claims 2-3 and 5-22 are themselves allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request Examiner to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 2-3 and 5-22 to issue.

New Claims 33-47

Independent Claims 33, 38, and 43 recite subject matter indicated as allowable, and formerly included in Claims 6, 9, and 17, respectively. Consequently, Applicants submit that Claims 33, 38, and 43 are allowable, and respectfully request prompt allowance.

Inasmuch as Claims 34-37 depend from allowable independent Claim 33, Claims 39-42 depend from allowable independent Claim 38, and Claims 44-47 depend from allowable independent Claim 43, Claims 34-37, 39-42, and 44-47 are also allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Change of Correspondence Address

Applicants respectfully request that all papers pertaining to the above-captioned patent application be directed to Customer No. 31625 and all telephone calls should be directed to Raman N. Dewan at 512.322.2673. Applicants also enclose a Revocation and Appointment of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1-3 and 5-47.

Applicants enclose a Fee Transmittal and check in the amount of \$200.00 for four (4) additional claims which have been added in this Amendment (over 32 which were paid for in a previous amendment).

Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2673.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 14, 2005